

Testimony

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

March 15, 2010

**HB5027 AN ACT CONCERNING THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT HEALTH CENTER'S
FACILITIES PLAN**

Senator Handley, Representative Willis and members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee, my name is Timothy O'Brien. I am here today to speak in support of HB5027 AN ACT CONCERNING THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT HEALTH CENTER'S FACILITIES PLAN

I attended the University of Connecticut School of Medicine from 2001-2005 and I have spent the last 5 years training as an Ear, Nose & Throat Surgeon in the integrated University of Connecticut Residency Program. The last nine years of preparation and training will culminate on August 2nd of this year. August 2nd will be my first day in practice as an Ear Nose & Throat Surgeon right here in Hartford. I am proud to stay in my home state of Connecticut and care for the people of Connecticut. I have seen other states struggle with doctor shortages and I fear that Connecticut is not immune to that possibility in the near future if not already in some fields.

When it came time to choose a medical school, I was extremely fortunate to attend the University of Connecticut School of Medicine. While some of my training and rotations were at area hospitals, I feel that I received a significant amount of my training at the University of Connecticut Health Center John Dempsey Hospital campus. It was that strong foundation of teaching at the University of Connecticut Health Center campus that allowed me to flourish as a medical student and now as a resident physician. The faculty at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine dedicated countless hours of mentoring, training and ultimately facilitated my growth as medical professional. It started with simple examples of learning how to perform basic physical exam skills. Seeing videotapes of myself interacting with patient instructors allowed me to better my skills and bedside manner. It was at UConn Health Center where I first placed an IV line and took a blood pressure. It was at UConn Health Center where I learned how to recognize cancer cells under the microscope. It was at UConn where I learned then how to deliver the devastating news to a patient that they've been diagnosed with cancer. It was at UConn where I learned how to be a well rounded physician.

As a resident physician, Uconn Health Center has played a vital role in my training. Our academic physician professors have an outstanding balance of being busy productive physicians yet they are also full time educators who can dedicate their precious time to education. This ensures that the residency programs are producing quality physicians that are going to be treating the next generation of patients. The private practice doctors who train us at other area hospitals have also been integral to my education and play a vital role as well. In fact, I will be one of those private practice doctors this August hoping to give educational time

and energy back to training program. However, the support of the private doctors at the area hospitals alone would not have provided me with the outstanding training that I've received. I believe that the combination of the support from the area hospitals together with the leadership and sustenance provided by the physicians and staff of the UConn Health Center is what has made my training so outstanding.

I strongly believe that state investment in the John Dempsey Hospital will ensure that quality teaching physicians, students and residents will continue to choose Connecticut for their practice and learning.

Senator Handley, Representative Willis and members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee, I thank you for the opportunity to speak and for your time. I urge you to support the proposed bill HB5027.